

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 6-11, without prejudice or disclaimer, as they were withdrawn from consideration.

Please AMEND the claims and ADD new claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A stapler including

a horizontal base,

an operation handle,

a staple striking blade plate, and

a staple mount magazine to which a connected staple assembly which is composed of a number of connected staples or a connected staple assembly cassette is mounted, said horizontal base, said operation handle and said staple mount magazine being coupled by means of a pivot shaft member,

wherein said operation handle is without a spring between itself and the connected staple assembly,

wherein said pivot shaft member includes an operation shaft member and a mount shaft member, in which the operation shaft member connects the horizontal base and the operation handle elastically to be rotatable, and the a mount shaft portion member connects the horizontal base and the staple mount magazine,

said staple mount magazine has a magazine upper dead center so as to be rotatable in a range below the magazine upper dead center through the mount shaft portionmember,

said staple mount magazine dead center is a position in which a lower end surface M on one end side of the staple mount magazine contacts an upper end surface N on one end side of the horizontal base,

said staple mount magazine is provided with a staple striking blade plate vertical slit having slit upper and lower dead centers, and

said staple striking blade plate has an upper portion connected to the operation handle and is disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base, the staple striking blade plate being vertically movable in the staple striking blade plate vertical slit in association with an operation of the operation handle, and when the operation handle is elastically pushed downward, the lower end of the staple striking blade plate lowers in the staple striking blade plate vertical slit of the staple mount magazine, and the staple striking blade plate has a vertical dimension reaching the horizontal base surface.

2. (ORIGINAL) The stapler according to claim 1, wherein said horizontal base includes shaft support means standing so as to extend above the staple mount magazine, said operation shaft member is disposed above the staple mount magazine in engagement with the shaft support means, and said operation handle is connected to the operation shaft member in engagement with the shaft support means.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A stapler including

a horizontal base,

an operation handle,

a staple striking blade plate, and

a staple mount magazine with which is mounted a connected staple assembly cassette having a case body and a connected staple assembly composed of a number of staples disposed in the case body, said horizontal base, said operation handle and said staple mount magazine being coupled by means of pivot shaft member,

wherein said staple striking blade plate has an upper portion connected to the operation handle and is disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base, the staple striking blade plate being vertically movable in association with an operation of the operation handle, and the staple striking blade plate has a vertical width such that when the operation handle is pushed down in a direction of the horizontal base, a lower end thereof reaches a surface of the horizontal base,

said staple mount magazine has a mount case, a feed mechanism and a staple lowering slit, said mount case serving to vertically hold the connected staple assembly of a number of staples each having substantially U-shape having a right angled corner portion, having a structure in which both lower end of the bent staple is directed to the horizontal base, and having one end side and another end side so as to be mounted in a range from a front end to a rear end of the staplestapler,

said one end side is mounted to the rear end side of the connected staple assembly, and said the other end side is mounted to the front end portion of the connected staple assembly and provided with the staple lowering slit as a blade plate passage,

said staple lowering slit is formed with an opening so as to guide, in the lowering direction, the staple which is separated from the front end of the connected staple assembly and lowered in the slit,

said feed mechanism includes a mount sensor, a pusher piece, a pusher piece engaging

member, and a pusher piece traction spring, and a release lever rotating plate, said mount sensor having a structure being displaced and deformed by sensing presence or absence of the connected staple assembly,

 said pusher piece engaging member engages the pusher piece and released-releases the engagement-engaged pusher piece under the condition of the displacement and deformation of the mount sensor,

 said pusher traction spring elastically pulls the pusher piece in the other end side in the staple mount magazine, and

said release lever rotating plate is mounted directly below the mount sensor and serves to detect, as a rear end sensing sensor, the passing of the rear end of the connected staple assembly accommodated in the connected staple assembly cassette, and

 said pusher piece moves from the one end side toward the other end side in the staple mount magazine as an advance passage, the pusher piece is subjected to elastic traction force in the other end side direction-in the direction towards the other end side by the pusher piece traction spring and advances in the advance passage when the engagement-engaged pusher piece is released, and the rear end of the connected staple assembly is formed to be elastically pressed in the direction towards the other end direction-side of the mount case.

4. (ORIGINAL) The stapler according to claim 3, wherein said feed mechanism is provided with a rear end sensing sensor sensing passing of the rear end of the connected staple assembly at the rear end of the mount magazine at a time of mounting the staple assembly cassette and being displaced and deformed by sensing the passing, and said pusher piece engaging member is provided with releasing means for releasing the engagement with the pusher piece under the condition of the displacement and deformation of the rear end sensing sensor.

5. (ORIGINAL) The stapler according to claim 4, said rear end sensing sensor commonly serves as the mount sensor.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (NEW) The stapler according to claim 3, wherein said pusher piece engaging member comprises:

a horizontal lock door including a release wall, said release wall releasing the pusher piece when it is engaged and locked;

a first horizontal rotation shaft and a second horizontal rotation shaft, facing each other, and positioned in one line to engage and lock the pusher piece;

a guide projection positioned on one end of said horizontal lock door and a lock projection positioned on an other end of said horizontal lock door, to guide said pusher piece to its stopping position after the stapling operation completes.

13. (NEW) The stapler according to claim 1,

wherein said staple striking blade plate and staple mount magazine are moved integrally upward after staple striking operation is completed and when operational handle is released from being depressed and is moved upward,

said lower end surface M on the one end side of the staple mount magazine contacts the upper end surface N of the one end side of the horizontal base, stopping the rotational movement of the staple mount magazine, and

said staple striking blade plate is separated from the staple mount magazine and moved upwards when the operation handle is further moved upward, the upward movement of the staple striking blade plate continuing until a blade holder guide projection reaches the upper dead center of the blade plate vertical slit, stopping the upward movement of the operational handle.

14. (NEW) The stapler according to claim 3, wherein said release lever rotating plate comprises:

a square portion located in the center, secured to the first extension of one end side of a first side wall section;

a rear end sensing arm extending vertically upward from an upper end portion of the square-shaped portion;

wherein the front end of the rear end sensing arm projects into the advance passage of the pusher piece, and

wherein the rear end sensing arm is engaged with a second stop arm to allow the mounting sensor to be disengagable in the rotating direction; and

a release arm including a first traction coil spring, the first traction coil spring drawing the release arm in its longitudinal direction.